



Mirror Moments—Accepting the challenge to look into the truth of God’s Word for the purpose of being devotedly holy, fully faithful and vibrantly fruitful for God’s glory.

Take time this week to still your heart in the holy presence of God as you go deeper with Him in reflecting on the truths of James 2. As you do, you may be overwhelmed by a sense of your failings and guilt. If this

happens, remind yourself of these words found in 1 John 2:1-2: “My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense — Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.” NIV

Some “reflection” suggestions:

- A. Prayerfully invite the Holy Spirit to sift through your thoughts, words and actions and reveal what actions need to be implemented and what polluting practices need by God’s grace to be discarded.
- B. Reread James 2 slowly. Jot down words or phrases that the Spirit is prompting you to pay attention to.
- C. What is God saying to you about . . .
 - Favoritism in your life
 - The quality of your faith in action
- D. In what specific ways are you presently serving those in need around you?
- E. In what ways may God be calling you to partner with others, even within our church body, to make a significant difference for those who are underserved?



A verse-by-verse study in James on becoming devotedly holy, fully faithful and vibrantly fruitful in Christ

Hinsdale Seventh-day Adventist Church
Five-Part Sermon Series by Pastor Ron Schultz ♦ August 28; September 11 and 18; October 9 and 23, 2010
Visit www.hsdac.us to view past sermons in this series

**Notes for Today’s Message:
September 11, 2010--Part 2**

In this second of five sermons, we’ll explore James 2. We discovered in our previous sermon that James is to the New Testament what Proverbs is to the Old Testament. This book is full of godly wisdom for making holy living a reality in our daily lives. James also contains striking parallels to Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount found in Matthew 5.

- 1. Reconnecting with key elements in chapter 1**
- 2. James 2:1-7—“Check” favoritism at the door of Christian fellowship**
 - Brothers
 - Favoritism (prosopolepsia)
 - Discriminate (diakrino)
 - Judges

Favoritism is an insidious form of worldly pollution (1:27). Like an acid rain, it threatens to _____ the very fabric of Christian community. Though the world encourages a hierarchy of human value based upon status, wealth, and position, the Christian community must be ever vigilant against the inroad of this kind of cast system. The very notion of the church being the body of Christ (I Corinthians 12:12-26) is counter to the ways of worldly favoritism.

3. James 2:8-13--The law, it's about how we treat others

–Royal Law

4. James 2:14-19--The interface and tension between faith and deeds

–Faith (pistis)

–deeds/works (ergon)

–Practical ways we can/are meeting the needs of others:

- Youth ministry to the homeless
- Helping Hand and Community Services assistance
- Partnership with Adventist Hinsdale Hospital

–But what about the underserved in your neighborhood, your community, greater Chicagoland? Given the “people” resources within our congregation what can we do to meet the needs of the underserved?

One day we will stand before our holy Lord, the one who said, “if you’ve done it unto one of the least of these, you’ve done it unto me.” Will we let the holiness of God transform how we see and relate to those in need?

Catching God’s vision—a scriptural and pastoral challenge: What significant ministry to the underserved does God want us to embrace as a church family? A call to prayer and action.

5. James 2:20-26--Biblical examples of faith in action

--Abraham, faith in action

–Rahab, faith in action

Wrap Up: Religion that God accepts is _____ in meeting needs and resistive toward the corrupting influences of the world. Specifically, practical holiness resists the polluting worldliness of favoritism. Holiness also puts on the coveralls of serving those in need because faith that does not lead to caring actions is, biblically speaking, **dead**.